

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A blast resistant cargo container comprising:

multiple side panels which are able to be assembled to form a chamber of the container, at least one of said panels is of high tensile strength, at least one of ~~which~~ said panels whose span thickness ratio is greater than ~~50~~ a ratio of 50 to 1; and

multiple connecting members which are able to transmit tensile forces directly or indirectly between every two adjacent side panels ~~and that either one or both ends of each said connecting members can rotate the member itself like a hinge when a blast occurs,~~ said connecting members comprising at least one plastically stretched connecting member with curve cross section which ~~of said connecting members~~ is securely mounted between two adjacent said side panels and is able to be plastically stretched to near a straight cross section under a blast,

whereby the structure formed by said side panels and said connecting members has sufficient stiffness ~~under~~ for normal operations and is a flexible structure deformed to near a sphere ~~and being able to~~ confine an explosive blast in the structure under a blast.

2. (currently amended) The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connecting members which intersect at a corner of the container are not securely connected to each other such that the stress concentration in the corner is able to be relieved, ~~at the corners where the connecting members intersect.~~

3. (currently amended) The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~each of said~~ the at least one plastically stretched connecting members is either two layer or single layer connecting member and connected to said adjacent side panels with overlap.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one layer of said two layer connecting member has an arcuate cross-section ~~constituted by line segments~~ comprising a plurality of straight segments.

6. (currently amended) The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one plastically stretched connecting member has a bubble shaped cross-section.

7. (original) The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one layer of the two layer connecting members has a crinkled cross section.

8. (currently amended) The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one spacer is disposed between the two layers of said two layer connecting member in order to reinforce ~~their~~ bending stiffness of said two layer connecting member when the ~~whole~~ cargo container is too flexible to be operated as normal.

9. (currently amended) The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 1, wherein a cap is mounted at each corner of the container and securely connected to only one ~~of its surrounding said side panels~~ panel.

10. (original) The blast resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plastically stretched connecting member is made of a ductile material.

11. (currently amended) ~~The connecting members~~ The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 10, wherein the ductile material of the at least one plastically stretched connecting member is selected from a the group of metals consisting of stainless steel and high ductility aluminum alloy.

12. (currently amended) The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said side panel panels of high tensile strength is selected from a group of plates consisting of fiber-reinforced composite, laminated composite, metal laminated composite and high strength aluminum alloy plates.

13. (original) The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plastically stretched connecting member is manufactured by either sheet metal bending or extrusion.

14. (currently amended) The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 1, wherein span-thickness ratios of said side panels are greater than a ratio of 200 to 1 for the side panels being made of a brittle material having a ductile feature with a ductility much less than that of the at least one plastically stretched connecting member.

15. (currently amended) A blast-resistant cargo container comprising:

multiple side panels which include a bottom panel and are able to be assembled to form a chamber of the container, at least one of said panels is of high tensile strength, at least one of ~~which~~ said side panels whose span-thickness ratio is greater than 50 a ratio of 50 to 1;

at least one perimeter bar which is securely mounted around said bottom panel and has a groove defined therein;

multiple connecting members which are able to transmit tensile forces directly or indirectly between every two adjacent side panels ~~and that either one or both ends of each said connecting members can rotate the member itself like a hinge~~ when a blast occurs;

wherein said multiple connecting members comprise at least one plastically stretched connecting member with curve cross section ~~of said connecting members which~~ is securely mounted between two adjacent said side panels and is able to be plastically stretched to near a straight cross section under a blast; and

at least one L-shaped connecting member ~~of said connecting members~~ which has a lower end formed as a L-shaped flange to be received in said groove of said perimeter bar and is securely mounted to an adjacent side panel of said bottom panel on an upper end of said L-shaped connecting member, wherein the upper end of said L-shaped connecting member is able to rotate to said perimeter bar greatly under a blast such that ~~these~~ the L-shaped connecting ~~members~~ member ~~are~~ is able to transmit tensile ~~forces~~ force between said bottom panel and said adjacent side panels through said perimeter ~~bars~~ bar when a blast occurs,

whereby the structure formed by said side panels and said connecting members has sufficient stiffness for normal operations and is a flexible structure deformed to near a sphere ~~and being able~~ to confine an explosive blast in the structure under a blast.

16. (currently amended) The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 15, wherein said at least one perimeter ~~bars are~~ bar is an extruded ~~bars~~ bar.

17. (currently amended) The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least one of said side ~~panel~~ panels of high tensile strength is selected from a group of plates consisting of fiber-reinforced composite, laminated composite, metal laminated composite and high strength aluminum alloy plates.

18. (original) The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 15, wherein the plastically stretched connecting member and L-shaped connecting member are made of ductile materials.

19. (currently amended) The blast-resistant cargo container ~~connecting members~~ as claimed in claim 18, wherein the ductile ~~material~~ materials of the plastically stretched connecting member ~~is~~ are selected from a the group of metals consisting of stainless steel and high ductility aluminum alloy.

20. (currently amended) The blast-resistant cargo container as claimed in claim 15, wherein a cap is mounted at each corner of the container and ~~it is~~ securely connected to only one ~~of its surrounding said side panels~~ panel.